

Approved as amended, Feb. 6, 2012

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 10:00-12:00 Noon
Town Room, Town Hall

Present: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Adrienne Terrizzi, Carol Gray, Patricia Holland, Alan Powell.
Visitors: Scott Merzbach, Larry Kelley. Absent: Mary Streeter.

Peggy called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Meetings with Town Staff and Others Involved in Town Meeting: We discussed whether the TMCC should meet with Town Clerk Sandra Burgess concerning 1) a more efficient design and use of tally cards, and 2) a new method of electing TMCC members during Town Meeting. Carol **moved** we ask the League of Women Voters if they would hold the TMCC election; Adrienne seconded; passed unanimously. We decided to postpone raising the tally card issue and Peggy will email Sandra suggesting shifting the ballot box for the TMCC election to next to the sign in table in order to encourage more voting. We also discussed meeting with Town Manager John Musante and Town Meeting Moderator Harrison Gregg to learn if either had any news about town meeting procedures, but decided we would not.

Carol **moved** we invite the new Jones Library director, Sharon Sharpy, to meet with us; Adrienne seconded; passed unanimously.

Planning for Forum on Town Meeting Membership and Discussion with Scott Merzbach: Adrienne reported on plans for the forum made by the subcommittee consisting of herself and Carol. The forum will take place Tuesday, Jan. 31st, 7 PM, Amherst Room, Jones Library. Its purpose is to recruit new members for TM since changes from the 2010 census required redrawing precinct lines and electing people for all 240 seats. Printed information will be handed out and precinct maps displayed. Six present members will speak: Susan Heitker, Dorwenda Bynum-Lewis, Barbara Ford, Chris Riddle, Anurag Sharma, and Josef Wille. They represent a variety of backgrounds, ages, and length of service. There will be refreshments. We discussed where to post notices, including apartment complexes, schools, ACTV scroll, and the Library website.

The committee discussed the meeting with Scott Merzbach, reporter for the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* and *Amherst Bulletin*. He asked what happened after the 2000 census, when the sign up deadline is, how the TMCC was formed, and what it has accomplished. Adrienne noted the importance of Mary Streeter's work.

Planning for Winter and Spring Work: We agreed that our meetings would be on Mondays at 3 PM, the next one to be Feb. 6 at that time.

Minutes of 11/28/11: Approved as amended.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Patricia Holland, Clerk

Documents provided:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of November 28, 2011
3. Posters for the Jan. 31 Forum